

President Bush noted the significant economic progress that Pakistan has made in recent years, and reaffirmed U.S. support for Pakistan's efforts to sustain reform and growth. He reiterated the U.S. Administration pledge of \$3 billion over five years to help in important areas such as security and the social sector. President Musharraf expressed appreciation for US support to Pakistan's social sector, economic development and poverty reduction programs.

They reiterated their commitment to further expand bilateral trade and investment.

President Musharraf reiterated his commitment to democracy and his intent to strengthen the country's democratic institu-

tions and bring sustainable democracy to Pakistan.

Taking note of the rich agenda for cooperation, President Bush once again emphasized the long-term U.S. commitment to Pakistan and to the region. President Musharraf expressed appreciation for the close collaboration between the two countries. Both Presidents agreed to further expand and deepen bilateral relations to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks on the Opening of the National Museum of the American Indian *September 23, 2004*

Thank you all for coming. Thank you all. Please be seated. Welcome to the White House. Laura and I are so honored that you're here, and we're honored to be with you.

This week, during one of the largest gatherings of American Indians in our Nation's history, we celebrate the legacy of the first people to call this land home. And we celebrate the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian, a unique and beautiful place that will introduce generations of visitors to a strong and living tradition. That museum is a long time in coming, but it now stands in a place of honor, exactly where it belongs, on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

I'm honored to call Ben Nighthorse Campbell a friend. He is a strong, strong leader. He is a proud Indian and a proud American. He represents the best of public service. And I appreciate his wife, Linda, being here as well. Thank you, friend. Plus, he's a pretty fine athlete. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate Secretary Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior, for being here, and

other members of my administration involved with Indian affairs who are here. And they should be here. After all, they're with the leaders of sovereign tribes: Dave Anderson, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior; Vickie Vasques, Assistant Deputy Secretary of the Office of Indian Education; Dr. Charles Grim, Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services. Thank you all for coming.

I'm proud to be here with Senator Ted Stevens—Senator Stevens, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, strong backer of the American Indian, as is Senator Domenici and all the other Senators who are here. I appreciate you all coming.

I'm honored the Members of the House are here: Richard Pombo, chairman of the House Resources Committee; J.D. Hayworth, cochairman of the Native American Caucus; along with Dale Kildee of Michigan, cochairman of the Native American Caucus; Congressman Tom Cole from

Oklahoma; and other Members of the Congress. Proud you're here, and thank you for coming.

I'm honored to have distinguished tribal leaders here today. Thank you all for coming to Washington, DC. We're proud you're here. I appreciate Sheila Burke, the Deputy Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute. I thank Rick West, the Director of the National Museum of the American Indian, for being here as well.

I want to thank the Indian members of our United States military for joining us today. Thank you for your service. Finally, I want to thank the Cherokee Choir for filling the East Room with such beautiful music. Thank you all, and welcome to the White House.

The museum's location on the Mall is fitting, because the American Indian experience is central to the American story. That story has involved great injustice against native peoples and great contribution by native peoples.

We remember Sacagawea's presence with Lewis and Clark. What a heroic woman she was. We remember the patriotism and bravery of the Code Talkers in World War II. We're still looking for Clarence Wolf Guts. *[Laughter]* We also remember all the Native Americans who fought to defend America, including the 17 American service personnel we just recognized here.

Native Americans have supported this country during its times of need, and their contributions have made America stronger and better. Decades ago, there were some who viewed American Indians as the vanishing Americans, people on the margins of our national life. Yet, the exhibits in the new museum and the museum itself carry a different message. Many of its staff and curators are Native Americans, and the exhibits are created in close consultation with the tribes.

The National Museum of the American Indian shows how your ancestors once lived, and it does much more than that.

It affirms that you and your tribal governments are strong and vital today and provides a place to celebrate your present achievements and your deepest hopes for the future. It allows all Americans to experience the rich culture of the American Indian.

Native American cultures survive and flourish when tribes retain control over their own affairs and their own future. That is why, earlier this morning, I signed an Executive memorandum to all Federal agencies reaffirming the Federal Government's longstanding commitment to respect tribal sovereignty and self-determination. My Government will continue to honor this government-to-government relationship.

Long before others came to the land called America, the story of this land was yours alone. Indians on this continent had their own languages and customs, just as you have today. They had jurisdiction over their lands and territories, just as you have today. And these sovereign tribal nations had their own systems of self-governance, just as you have today.

The National Museum of Indian Affairs affirms that this young country is home to an ancient, noble, and enduring native culture. And all Americans are proud of that culture. Like many Indian dwellings, the new museum building faces east, toward the rising sun. And as we celebrate this new museum and we look to the future, we can say that the sun is rising on Indian country.

Welcome to the White House. May God bless you. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:35 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado and his wife, Linda; and Clarence Wolf Guts, World War II veteran and Lakota Sioux code talker.

Memorandum on Government-to-Government Relationship With Tribal Governments

September 23, 2004

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Government-to-Government Relationship with Tribal Governments

The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribes and a special relationship with Alaska Native entities as provided in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, and Federal statutes. Presidents for decades have recognized this relationship. President Nixon announced a national policy of self-determination for Indian tribes in 1970. More recently, Executive Order 13175, entitled Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, was issued in 2000. I reiterated my Administration's adherence to a government-to-government relationship and support for tribal sovereignty and self-determination earlier this year in Executive Order 13336, entitled American Indian and Alaska Native Education.

My Administration is committed to continuing to work with federally recognized tribal governments on a government-to-government basis and strongly supports and respects tribal sovereignty and self-determination for tribal governments in the United States. I take pride in acknowledging and reaffirming the existence and durability of our unique government-to-government relationship and these abiding principles.

This commitment begins at the White House, where my Director of Intergovern-

mental Affairs serves as my White House liaison with all Indian nations and works with federally recognized tribal governments on an intergovernmental basis. Moreover, it is critical that all departments and agencies adhere to these principles and work with tribal governments in a manner that cultivates mutual respect and fosters greater understanding to reinforce these principles.

Accordingly, the head of each executive department and agency (agency) shall continue to ensure to the greatest extent practicable and as permitted by United States law that the agency's working relationship with federally recognized tribal governments fully respects the rights of self-government and self-determination due tribal governments. Department or agency inquiries regarding this memorandum, specifically those related to regulatory, legislative, or budgetary issues, should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget.

This memorandum is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, entities, or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

GEORGE W. BUSH